



From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

The tragic attacks in Paris on Nov. 13 highlight the critical need for all of us in the response community to remain vigilant and continue to refine our skills and plans so that we are well-prepared for all types of hazards, both natural and man-made. While from a homeland security perspective state and federal partners are working around the clock, as emergency managers it is important that we work to create resilient communities able to recover from any incident.

To that effect, I applaud our colleagues in Madison and DeWitt counties for their commitment to planning and training.

Madison County Emergency Management Agency recently hosted a regional communications-focused exercise. This exercise brought together statewide capabilities and, for the first time, exercised an airborne repeater thanks to our partners at the Civil Air Patrol. My thanks to Director Larry Ringer and his staff for tackling this challenging emergency response issue and hosting a successful regional exercise. Read more about the exercise on page 3.



I also want to recognize DeWitt County EMA Coordinator Teresa Barnett for her exceptional leadership dealing simultaneously with a FEMA-graded nuclear power plant exercise and a real-life emergency. I spoke with Teresa after this event to commend her deft handling of this difficult situation. During the call, she stressed that it truly was a team effort made possible by 19 other staff and county officers. Spoken like a true leader! Read more about the hostile action-based exercise in this issue.

Larry and Teresa are just two of the countless professionals dedicated to public safety in Illinois. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your commitment and service to the residents of your community and this state.

Warmest holiday greetings from my family to yours. God bless!

In this issue

Hostile Action-Based Exercise Tests Response Plans	2
Japanese Officials Visit IEMA	3
Madison County Hosts Regional Exercise	3
Mass Care Plan Rewrite	5
Input Sought on IA Declaration Criteria	5
West Chicago Thorium Cleanup	6
Radioactive Materials Program Review	7
Flammable Liquid Rail Training	8
FFY 16 Public Assistance Program Updates	8
Summit Evaluation Responses	9
Save the Date	9

Hostile Action-Based Exercise Tests Response Plans

Local and state agencies demonstrated their capabilities for responding to a hostile action-based (HAB) event involving the Clinton Nuclear Power Station during an exercise on Nov. 18.

The scenario involved a simulated attack on the Clinton plant by armed adversaries, 10 of which eventually gained access to the owner-controlled area by rappelling from a helicopter. The exercise ended with all adversaries neutralized and Exelon remaining in control of the nuclear power station.

Exercise participants included state agencies and partner organizations in the State Emergency Operations Center, IEMA's Radiological Emergency Assessment Center, the Joint Information Center, Exelon, emergency operations centers (EOCs) in DeWitt, Macon, Piatt and McLean counties, and the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office. In addition, the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided law enforcement support in the DeWitt County Incident Command Post (ICP).

The exercise tested communication and coordination between on-site security and off-site law enforcement and between the DeWitt County EOC and the ICP.

Due to a real-life oil leak in a local waterway, DeWitt County Emergency Management Agency dealt with actual and exercise-based scenarios during part of the exercise. These efforts were recognized during a post-exercise preliminary briefing by FEMA, which commended the DeWitt County EMA Coordinator for awareness of the exercise and simultaneous handling of a real emergency.

During that preliminary briefing, FEMA also noted that state and local participants met all exercise requirements. Parkland College in Champaign, which

served as a reception center, was cited by FEMA as well prepared. Parkland is one of five college campuses in Illinois that have received IEMA's Ready to Respond Campus designation.

The Clinton exercise was the final HAB exercise for this first round. From this point forward, the state and each primary Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) county will be required to participate with the utility in a HAB scenario once during each eight-year cycle.

REP exercises are federally required to be conducted once every two years per nuclear power station. Illinois conducts three federally evaluated REP exercises every year in addition to numerous off-year exercises, tabletop exercises and pre-exercises.

A draft report on the exercise will be written by FEMA and provided to IEMA within 30 days of the exercise. A final report will be published within 90 days of the exercise.



DeWitt County EMA Coordinator Teresa Barnett

Upcoming Training Opportunities

**EOC's Role in Community Cyber Security
(AWR-136 and MGT-384)
Two-day training (16 hours)
Jan. 28-29, 2016
Springfield (SEOC)**

**Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning
(AWR-136 and MGT-385)
Two-day training (16 hours)
Feb. 25-26, 2016
Springfield (SEOC)**

**For more information about these courses and other training opportunities or to register, visit
<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>.**

Japanese Officials Visit IEMA, Observe Clinton Exercise

Representatives from the Japanese Nuclear Regulation Authority and National Police Agency observed activities related to the Clinton nuclear power station hostile action-based exercise on Nov. 18. The five visitors viewed response actions at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), DeWitt County EOC and the Incident Command Post at the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office.

On Nov. 17, the group, which was hosted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region 3 office, also toured the SEOC and met with IEMA staff involved in nuclear power plant monitoring and emergency response planning.

The visit was under the scope of the United States-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation, which was formed in 2012 following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that caused extensive damage to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. The commission consolidates and expands bilateral cooperation on civil nuclear energy, including nuclear regulation, decontamination of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, nuclear research and development, non-proliferation, safeguards, security and emergency response.

The discussions, exercise observation and site tours



IEMA Assistant Director Joe Klinger (center) provided a tour of the SEOC and an overview of the agency's nuclear safety programs for the Japanese visitors.

provided a unique opportunity to address a wide number of related nuclear safety and security topics and share best practices between the two countries.

This wasn't the first time IEMA has shared information about the state's nuclear power plant safety efforts with officials from Japan. In May 2014, IEMA hosted local officials from the Fukushima prefecture who were interested in learning about IEMA's remote monitoring system for nuclear power plants and the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents.

Regional Exercise Tests Emergency Communications

Madison County Emergency Management Agency recently spearheaded a regional exercise that tackled one of the top issues facing first responders: communications. The exercise tested communications capabilities in the event of a massive loss of infrastructure, including Internet access, cellular systems and interoperable radios. Madison County EMA collaborated with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) and IEMA on this challenging exercise.

The Oct. 21 exercise scenario involved a magnitude 7.7 earthquake within the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Simulated significant damage from the earthquake caused the loss or severe disruption of transportation, power, communications, water and waste water, chemical, banking and other critical sectors.

An Incident Action Plan developed for the scenario identified three forward command posts



Madison County EMA Director Larry Ringering

geographically and strategically located in Bethalto, Effingham and Marion. The Unified Command Posts (UCPs), which were staffed with Incident Management Teams and communications specialists, were tasked

(continued on page 4)

Regional Exercise Tests Emergency Communications (continued from page 3)

with establishing communications with the stricken areas and providing a communications path to Area Command and the State Emergency Operations Center for resources management.

Exercise activity focused on how to communicate when wide-area communications tools are disabled because of massive infrastructure failures. This was addressed in several ways, including:

- Strategic technology reserve assets from IEMA Regions 8, 9 and 11 were used to provide communications outside of the normal communications infrastructure. These included three Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications Systems (ITECS) trailers, three UCP vehicles, and an IEMA field command vehicle, all staffed by Communications Unit Leaders, Communications Technicians, Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Teams (IL-TERT), Geographical Information System and Information Technology specialists, and Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) volunteers.
- IL-TERT provided dispatch communications between all the locations.
- The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flew two Illinois repeaters aboard their specially equipped aircraft that provided communications over a large part of the exercise area.
- Amateur radio operators working under the AUXCOMM structure provided long-range as well as local communications.

The exercise provided many “lessons learned,” including:

- The airborne repeaters flown by the CAP proved to be very effective in providing effective radio coverage of up to 31,000 square miles.
- Incident dispatchers provided by IL-TERT were able to effectively distribute and track heavy message traffic, such as would be generated in a catastrophic disaster.
- The AUXCOMM program, which integrates amateur radio operators into the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System structure, shows significant promise in using these unique talents and skills for incident response.

Exercise participants considered this an effective and successful exercise and identified many strengths to build upon as well as weaknesses to address and correct. The exercise format and execution will be refined and improved for the next communications-focused exercise to be held sometime in late 2016.

“It’s always important to ensure communications are working effectively when a disaster strikes,” said Madison County EMA Director Larry Ringering, the driving force behind the exercise. “They play a vital role in a community’s ability to recover.”

One unique aspect of the exercise was flyovers by aircraft from the Civil Air Patrol that was specially equipped with repeaters.



Mass Care Plan Rewrite Underway

A complete rewrite of the state's mass care plan and annexes is Job #1 for Jonathan Gulletta, a member of IEMA's Strategic Planning Cell. Gulletta, an American Red Cross employee through a grant funded by IEMA, has been working on the plan since joining the staff in mid-August.

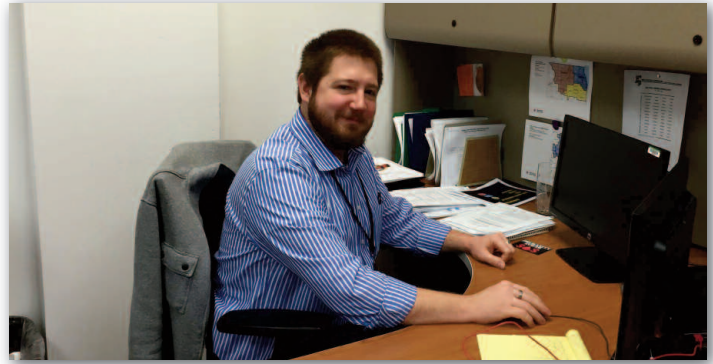
Gulletta said the plan's complete overhaul will bring it in line with national guidance. The primary functions to be addressed in the plan are feeding, sheltering, relief supplies and reunification of family members. In addition, emergency assistance efforts, such as emotional support, animals and mental health, will be incorporated into those four main functions.

The initial mass care document will be produced by small working groups with members from more than 20 mass care service-providing agencies. Gulletta said inclusion of more agencies in the planning process will help produce a plan that accurately reflects the state's mass care capabilities.

A draft of the Population Related Disaster Services annex is expected to be sent out to the working groups by January 2016. The Strategic Planning Cell is also working on job aids, typing and other additions to send to the working groups.

The goal is to have the mass care plan finalized by June 30, 2016.

When complete, the new plan should provide a more accurate picture of the state's level of preparedness in the area of mass care, especially for major and



Mass care planner Jonathan Gulletta

catastrophic events. Ideally, the plan will set the framework for events on a scale Illinois has not yet faced.

Gulletta believes thorough documentation in the new mass care plan will better reflect the way the state does business and will reduce reliance on institutional memory.

In addition to his work on the mass care plan, Gulletta assists with work on the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and is providing technical support for an Emergency Management Assistance Team-Incident Management Team earthquake exercise in 2016.

Before joining the Strategic Planning Cell, Gulletta worked for three years as a Peace Corps community health worker in Cameroon. He received his bachelor's in political science from Seton Hall and a master's in public administration from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Input Sought on Individual Assistance Declaration Criteria

FEMA is seeking public comment on proposed changes to regulations describing FEMA's Individual Assistance declarations criteria. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register and comments should be submitted by Jan. 11, 2016.

According to FEMA, the proposed rule is intended to provide more objective and clear Individual Assistance declaration factors and speed the declaration process, including FEMA's recommendation to the President on whether a major disaster declaration authorizing Individual Assistance is warranted.

The proposed rule expands and clarifies factors used

to determine the need for an Individual Assistance declaration, including state fiscal capacity and resource availability, uninsured home and personal property losses, disaster-impacted population profile, impact to community infrastructure, casualties, and disaster-related unemployment.

Local emergency managers, elected officials, volunteer organizations and others involved in disaster response recovery are encouraged to review and comment on the proposed rule. Details of the proposed rule can be reviewed online at http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FEMA_FRDOC_0001-4824. Comments also may be submitted on that page.

West Chicago Thorium Cleanup Milestone Observed

A major milestone in a two-decades-long radioactive material cleanup project in West Chicago and DuPage County was observed during November. Director Joseph and IEMA personnel involved in the massive cleanup in West Chicago and DuPage County joined local officials and the West Chicago Environmental Response Trust (WCERT) to recognize the elimination of contaminated soil.

Between 1932 and 1973, thorium and rare earth compounds were processed at a 43-acre factory site in West Chicago. The Lindsey Light Company (later known as Kerr-McGee) used the materials to produce lantern mantels for gaslights originally used for street and home lighting and later for camping lanterns.

In addition, after World War II the facility produced thorium for the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpiling Act under contract via the Atomic Energy Commission, which was a predecessor to both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy.

The process generated more than one million tons of radioactively contaminated waste materials. Much of

this material was buried on the factory site, within several feet of homes and businesses. This resulted in contamination of on-site soils and groundwater.

In the early days of the facility's operations, hazards related to the waste materials weren't fully understood. As a result, large quantities of the contaminated waste were taken from the site and used as fill dirt at hundreds of homes and city-owned properties throughout the community.

Activities focused on removal of thorium began in 1994. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had authority over cleanup efforts at contaminated properties outside the factory site borders. This included remediation of Kress Creek and a branch of the DuPage River, Reed-Keppler Park and more than 700 residential properties. IEMA provided crucial support to these projects by identifying contaminated properties, conducting verification surveys, collecting and testing soil samples and ensuring the protection of people living and working near the cleanups.

The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (now part of IEMA) became the regulatory entity for the radioactive

(continued on page 7)



Current and former IEMA employees involved in the West Chicago project joined local officials, WCERT and U.S. EPA representatives at the former factory site on Nov. 10 to mark the elimination of contaminated soil. The group included Jamie Lock (left), project engineer with DuPage County Stormwater Management, and West Chicago Mayor Ruben Pineda (right).

West Chicago Thorium Cleanup Milestone Observed *(continued from page 6)*

material license pertaining to the Rare Earths Facility on Nov. 1, 1990. When a trust was established in 2011, the state of Illinois became a beneficiary to the trust. The WCERT is responsible for managing cleanup in accordance with the conditions of their Illinois radioactive material license.

To date, combined off-site and on-site cleanup activities have cost more than \$1.2 billion, and 70 percent of this cleanup project has been privately funded. Due to the thorium stockpiling efforts on behalf of the federal government, the U.S. Department of Energy also has provided funds for this cleanup project under the Title X Uranium/Thorium Reimbursement Program.

The majority of on-site cleanup activities have been completed, with remediation of contaminated groundwater the remaining cleanup project. IEMA and the WCERT will be focused on the contaminated groundwater in coming years, and cleanup will occur upon receipt of Title X reimbursements. Institutional controls are in place to prevent public health impacts from the contaminated groundwater plume.

By the numbers:

- Thorium contamination removed from approximately 700 residential properties
- 1.6 million tons of radioactive waste shipped for out-of-state disposal
- \$1.2 billion spent for cleanup of the factory site, residential properties, Redd-Keppler Park and the DuPage River
- 16,000 rail cars used to ship material for disposal
- 8 miles of Kress Creek and the DuPage River cleaned up
- 385 million gallons of water treated to remove contamination
- 345,000 tons of material processed through the Physical Separation Facility (reduced the number of rail car shipments by about 3,400 and saved millions of dollars)

Radioactive Materials Program Undergoes Federal Review

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine periodic Integrated Materials Performance and Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review for IEMA's Bureau of Radiation Safety on Nov. 10. The review was conducted by three NRC staff from the agency's Region III office in Lisle, Illinois, and addressed nine performance indicators.

The IMPEP team's preliminary findings determined the Illinois program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the NRC's program. The review team made no recommendations in regard to program performance by the Illinois Agreement State Program during this review. The review team indicated that the Illinois Agreement State Program remains a very active, strong and stable program with excellent management support.

During the review, NRC and IEMA staff also discussed national policy on security, proposed rulemakings, medical events and staffing/budgetary concerns at the state and federal levels.

Based on the positive results of this interim review, the



Kay Foster, chief of the Bureau of Nuclear Facility Safety, explained the state's remote monitoring system to NRC representatives following the IMPEP review.

next full review of the Illinois Agreement State Program will take place in 2018. The previous full review was conducted in 2013, at which time the state received a one-year extension for having two consecutive IMPEP reviews with all indicators found satisfactory.

Flammable Liquid Rail Incident Training Held

Nearly 70 first responders attended one of three flammable liquid preparedness and response training courses hosted by IEMA, CN Railroad, BNSF Railroad, and Specialized Response Solutions, an industrial fire response organization from Fort Worth, Texas.

The three-hour command level course, conducted in Springfield in early November, addressed preparedness and response to rail incidents involving flammable liquids. The training was designed to leverage the expertise of industry rail carriers, state agencies and subject matter experts to prepare command staff to safely manage incidents involving flammable liquids, including Bakken crude oil.

The training also included a demonstration of equipment that can be brought to a flammable liquid rail incident to support local response efforts.

Feedback from participants was positive, and additional training was requested.



Equipment used for fighting flammable liquid fires was explained during the training sessions.

Resolve to be Ready in 2016!

FFY 16 Public Assistance Program Updates Announced

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has updated its per capita impact indicators and small project thresholds under the Public Assistance Program for federal fiscal year 2016. The FEMA per capita impact indicators are used to assess the financial impact to a state and county after a disaster incident has occurred.

In general, a state must meet the state per capita impact indicator of \$1.41 per person for FEMA to recommend to the President that Public Assistance Program funding be designated under a declaration made in that state. With Illinois' current population, this means that any disaster incident in Illinois must generally have at least \$18,091,191.12 in eligible costs for Public Assistance Program funding to be designated under a declaration.

Once a declaration has been made by the President, FEMA uses a county per capita impact indicator of \$3.57 per person to determine if a county should be designated for Public Assistance Program funding under the declaration.

Small project grants under the Public Assistance

Program are processed using simplified procedures in accordance with 44 CFR 206.203. The small project minimum and maximum amounts have increased for federal fiscal year 2016. Any small project must have a minimum of \$3,050 of eligible costs for a Project Worksheet (PW) to be approved by FEMA. Eligible project costs must also be less than \$121,800 for the project to be considered as a small project.

Any projects that have eligible costs of \$121,800 or more are considered to be large projects and are processed using a different set of procedures.

The Public Assistance Program may provide federal disaster assistance to states, local units of government and certain private non-profit organizations for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the permanent restoration of public facilities, as a result of an emergency or major disaster declaration made by the President. IEMA serves as the recipient of Public Assistance Program funding for the state of Illinois.

If you have any questions regarding the Public Assistance Program, please contact the IEMA PA team at (217) 782-8719 or PA.Grants@illinois.gov.

Summit Evaluation Responses Help with 2016 Planning

Planning for the 2016 IEMA Training Summit began almost immediately after the 2015 summit ended. A catalyst for that planning is the feedback received from a web-based survey sent to all attendees at this year's event seeking comments on registration, vendors, sessions, core capabilities and more.

Some of the key outcomes of the survey include:

- More than 90 percent of respondents rated the online registration process as above average. Suggestions included making it possible to access their registration after the fact to make changes, opening registration earlier and including the core capabilities pertaining to each session on the summit website.
- The majority of respondents who attended one of the pre-summit sessions on Sept. 8 believed their session was well developed and presented, applicable to their job duties and made them more capable of completing their job duties.
- Respondents who attended one of the pre-summit training sessions on Sept. 9 overwhelmingly felt their session was well developed and presented, applicable to their job duties and made them more capable of completing their job duties.
- Eighty percent of respondents indicated the summit enabled them to establish and maintain

whole community partnerships in support of state, sub-state, regional, county and municipal response and recovery using joint operational planning and resource management processes.

- When asked if they were better able to develop and implement a public education, information and awareness campaign to inform the general public on pre-disaster, disaster and post-disaster information, including procedures for dissemination of information to the media and public inquiries, 80 percent of survey respondents said yes.

Suggested session topics for the 2016 Training Summit included professional development, PIO issues, how to write a response plan, social media exercise, cyber security, conflict resolution, relationship building, emergency operations plan development, leadership, volunteer resources, pet preparedness and interoperable communications.

The summit planning committee will continue to assess the results of the survey to ensure the most relevant information is available for attendees next year. Thanks to everyone who took the time to provide this valuable insight to the planning team for the 2016 IEMA Training Summit.

**December is
Holiday Safety Month**

Save the Date

**20th Annual IEMA Training Summit
Sept. 6-8, 2016, Springfield**

Vendor and sponsorship registration coming soon



State of Illinois
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

For more information on this newsletter, contact:

Patti Thompson • Public Information Officer: (217) 557-4756